



Massachusetts
Department of Correction

**Quarterly Report on the
Status of Prison Overcrowding,
Fourth Quarter of 1997**

**Submitted in Compliance with Chapter 799
Section 21 of the Acts of 1985**

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Commissioner

February, 1998

Approved by: State Purchasing Agent
Publication No: 14,602-09-45-10-10-86

1997 Fourth Quarter Report

Section Twenty-one of Chapter 799 of the Acts of 1985 directs the Commissioner of Correction to report quarterly on the status of overcrowding in state and county facilities. This statute calls for the following information:

Such report shall include, by facility, the average daily census for the period of the report and the actual census on the first and the last days of the report period.

Said report shall also contain such information for the previous twelve months and a comparison to the rated capacity of such facility.

This report presents the required statistics for the fourth quarter of 1997.

This report was prepared by Hollie Matthews of Research and Planning and is based on daily count sheets prepared by the Classification Division

1997 Fourth Quarter Report

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Technical Notes

- The official capacity or custody level designation for each facility can change for a number of reasons, e.g. expansion of facility beds, decrease of facility beds due to fire, or changes in contracts with vendors. In all tables the capacity and custody level reflects the status at the end of the reporting period. The design capacity is reported for correctional facilities in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4
- On November, 15, 1996, one hundred new modular beds were added to MCI Concord, increasing its design capacity to 614. Ninety-six modular beds were also added to MCI Norfolk, increasing its total to 1,084 beds. Pondville Correctional Center was reclassified from Custody Level 3/2 to Custody Level 3.
- Two hundred forty-three new modular beds were added to Middlesex (Billerica) House of Correction during November 15, 1996, increasing its total to 1,035 beds.
- Due to changes in the Massachusetts General Law, DOC consolidated one unit at the Bridgewater Treatment Center and back-filled with general population inmates. These design capacity beds were placed on-line November 8, 1996 and first appeared on the November 12, 1996 daily count sheet. Three hundred beds were placed on-line during the third quarter of 1997.
- Due to the Department's policy changes, the security level of MCI-Shirley (Min) was changed from Security Level 3/2 to Security Level 3 during the first quarter of 1996 .
- On January 31, 1995, the design capacity for the Departmental Segregation Units (DSU) at MCI-Cedar Junction and MCI-Norfolk were taken off the count sheets. The segregation units are considered support beds and are not shown on the daily count sheet as design capacity. This resulted in the elimination of 91 beds (60 at Cedar Junction and 31 at Norfolk) from the previous quarterly reports.
- In previous quarterly reports, the population figures for PPREP were included with the Park Drive population. The PPREP population is reported independently starting with the first quarter of 1995.
- Where relevant, the population figures for all facilities include both male and female inmates except as shown at Lancaster.
- State inmates housed in the Hampshire county contract program are included in the county population tables, as are all other state inmates housed in county facilities.
- Longwood Treatment Center is a specialized DOC facility for individuals incarcerated for O.U.I. Because the inmates are primarily county sentenced inmates, the inmate count and bed capacity are also included in Tables 3 and 4.
- The Massachusetts Boot Camp opened on August 17, 1992, and is located at the Bridgewater Correctional complex in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Prior to 1993, the Boot Camp was listed as a DOC minimum security facility. In August, 1995, 128 beds were designated to security level 4 (state inmates) and 128 beds for county inmates. In October, 1995, these beds were added to security level 4 design capacity, and 128 beds were added to House of Correction tables.
- Norfolk County includes Braintree, Dedham, and Norfolk Contract. Middlesex County includes both Billerica and Cambridge. Berkshire County includes the pre-release facility. Essex County includes Middleton and Lawrence Correctional Alternative Center. Bristol County includes Dartmouth, Eastern Massachusetts Alternative Center and Pre-Release.
- Nashua Street inmates housed at other facilities are reported in the counts for the facilities in which they are in custody.
- During June, 1993, Plymouth House of Correction added 833 beds increasing its total to 1,140 beds.

- On April 18, 1995, new security level changes were established according to 103 DOC 101 Correctional Institutions/Custody Levels policy which states:

Custody Levels:

- **Level One.** The least restrictive in the department and is reserved only for those inmates who are at the end of their sentence and have been identified as posing little to no threat to the community. Supervision is minimal and indirect

- **Level Two.** A custody level in which both design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of restoring to the inmate maximum responsibility and control of their own behavior and actions prior to their release. Direct supervision of these inmates is not required, but intermittent observation may be appropriate under certain conditions. Inmates within this level may be permitted to access the community unescorted to participate in programming to include, but not limited to, work release, educational release, etc.

- **Level Three.** A custody level in which both the design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of returning to the inmate a greater sense of personal responsibility and autonomy while still providing for supervision and monitoring of behavior and activity. Inmates within this security level are not considered a serious risk to the safety of staff, inmates or to the public. Program participation is mandated and geared toward their potential reintegration into the community. Access to the community is limited and under constant direct staff supervision.

- **Level Four.** A custody level in which both the design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of restoring to the inmate some degree of responsibility and control of their own behavior and actions, while still insuring the safety of staff and inmates. Design/construction is generally characterized by high security parameters and limited use of internal physical barriers. Inmates at this level have demonstrated the ability to abide by rules and regulations and require intermittent supervision. However, behavior in the community, i.e., criminal sentence and/or the presence of serious outstanding legal matters indicate the need for some control and for segregation from the community. Job and program opportunities exist for all inmates within the perimeter of the facility

- **Level Five.** A custody level in which design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the need to provide maximum external and internal control and supervision of inmates. Inmates accorded to this status may present an escape risk or pose a threat to other inmates, staff, or the orderly running of the institution, however, at a lesser degree than those at level 6. Supervision remains constant and direct. Through an inmates willingness to comply with institutional rules and regulations, increased job and program opportunities exist.

- **Level Six.** A custody level in which both design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the need to provide maximum external and internal control and supervision of inmates primarily through the use of high security parameters and extensive use of internal physical barriers and check points. Inmates accorded this status present serious escape risks or pose serious threats to themselves, to other inmates, to staff, or the orderly running of the institution. Supervision of inmates is direct and constant. Inmates are confined to their cells at all times, except when they are removed for authorized activities. Inmates within their status, when removed from their cell, are typically under escort and in restraints.

Abbreviations

AC	- Addiction Center	OCCC	- Old Colony Correctional Center
ADP	- Average Daily Population	OUI	- Operating Under the Influence
ATU	- Awaiting Trial Unit	PPREP	- Pre-Parole Residential
CRS	- Contract Residential Services		Environmental Phase Program
	Includes Charlotte House,	PRC	- Pre-Release Center
	and Houston House	SECC	- Southeastern Correctional Ctr
DDU	- Departmental Disciplinary Unit	SDPTC	- Sexually Dangerous Person
DOC	- Department of Correction		Treatment Center
DSU	- Departmental Segregation Unit	SMCC	- South Middlesex Correctional
HOC	- House of Correction		Center (formerly SMPRC)
NECC	- Northeastern Correctional Center	SH	- State Hospital
NCCI	- North Central Correctional	TC	- Treatment Center (Longwood)
	Institution at Gardner		

Table 1 provides the DOC figures for the fourth quarter of 1997. As this table indicates, the DOC population (excluding Bridgewater SH, SDPTC, AC, Longwood TC, Mass. Boot Camp) decreased by 26 inmates during the fourth quarter. At the end of the quarter, the DOC operated with 10,033 inmates in the system, and the average daily population was 10,033 with a design capacity of 7,106. Thus, the DOC operated at 141 percent of design capacity.

Population in DOC Facilities, October 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997					
CustodyLevel/ Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Custody Level 6					
Cedar Junction	815	805	812	633	129%
Framingham - ATU	97	131	102	64	152%
Custody Level 5					
OSCC	689	700	701	488	141%
Custody Level 4					
Concord	1,254	1,229	1,304	614	204%
Framingham	525	486	495	388	135%
Norfolk	1,519	1,528	1,518	1,084	140%
Bay State	295	295	293	266	111%
NCCI	936	949	930	568	165%
SECC	803	802	809	456	176%
Shirley-Medium	1,090	1,092	1,097	720	151%
Mass Boot Camp	103	119	109	128	80%
*Treatment Center	345	349	341	345	100%
Sub-Total	8,471	8,485	8,511	5,754	147%
Custody Level 3					
Plymouth	180	186	171	151	119%
NECC	212	219	208	150	141%
SECC-Minimum	89	90	88	100	89%
Shirley-Lower	321	344	293	403	80%
Pondville	186	173	181	100	186%
Custody Level 3/2					
Lancaster-Male	121	122	118	94	129%
Lancaster-Female	59	56	52	59	100%
SMCC	190	189	198	125	152%
Sub-Total	1,358	1,379	1,309	1,182	115%
Custody Level 2					
Boston State	94	86	98	55	171%
Park Drive	49	50	48	50	98%
Hodder House	33	35	33	35	94%
Custody Level 1					
Charlotte	6	7	8	15	40%
Houston House	11	8	13	15	73%
PPREP	11	9	13	n.a	n.a
Sub-Total	204	195	213	170	120%
Total	10,033	10,059	10,033	7,106	141%
Bridgewater SH	373	385	359	227	164%
Bridgewater TC	188	189	189	216	87%
Bridgewater AC	112	124	108	214	52%
Longwood TC	139	140	136	125	111%
Sub-Total	812	838	792	782	104%
Grand Total	10,845	10,897	10,825	7,888	137%
Houses of Correction	747	765	738	n.a	n.a
Federal Prisons	27	27	27	n.a	n.a
Inter-State Contract	381	383	376	n.a	n.a

(* See Technical Notes)

Table 2 provides the DOC figures for the previous twelve months - i.e., for the period October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997. These figures indicate that the DOC population increased by 228, or 2 percent, over this twelve month period (excluding Bridgewater SH, SDPTC, AC, Longwood TC, Mass. Boot Camp), from 9,818 in October, 1996 to 10,046 in September, 1997.

Population in DOC Facilities, October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997					
Custody Level/ Facility	Avg Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Custody Level 6					
Cedar Junction	813	791	806	633	128%
Framingham - ATU	109	135	112	64	170%
Custody Level 5					
OCCC	700	725	700	488	143%
Custody Level 4					
Concord	1,238	1,162	1,218	614	202%
Framingham	491	504	502	388	127%
Norfolk	1,510	1,338	1,521	1,084	139%
Bay State	295	296	295	266	111%
NCCI	995	1,018	948	568	175%
SECC	828	840	805	456	182%
Shirley-Medium	1,096	1,104	1,091	720	152%
Mass Boot Camp	100	126	120	128	78%
*Treatment Center	156	-	349	45	347%
Sub-Total	8,331	8,039	8,467	5,454	153%
Custody Level 3					
Plymouth	188	182	186	151	125%
NECC	248	263	220	150	165%
SECC-Minimum	102	105	92	100	102%
Shirley-Lower	348	362	345	403	86%
Pondville	192	201	173	100	192%
Custody Level 3/2					
Lancaster-Male	149	203	123	94	159%
Lancaster-Female	58	73	57	59	98%
SMCC	189	198	188	125	151%
Sub-Total	1,474	1,587	1,384	1,182	125%
Custody Level 2					
Boston State	93	92	86	55	169%
Park Drive	46	40	49	50	92%
Hodder House	31	33	35	35	89%
Custody Level 1					
Charlotte	10	9	7	15	67%
Houston House	9	9	8	15	60%
PPREP	11	9	10	n a	n a
Sub-Total	200	192	195	170	118%
Total	10,005	9,818	10,046	6,806	147%
Bridgewater SH	365	344	383	227	161%
Bridgewater TC	200	250	191	216	93%
Bridgewater AC	113	150	124	214	53%
Longwood TC	146	153	144	125	117%
Sub-Total	824	897	842	782	105%
Grand Total	10,829	10,715	10,888	7,588	143%
Houses of Correction	732	773	767	n a	n a
Federal Prisons	28	30	27	n a	n a
Inter-State Contract	350	330	383	n a	n a

(* See Technical Notes)

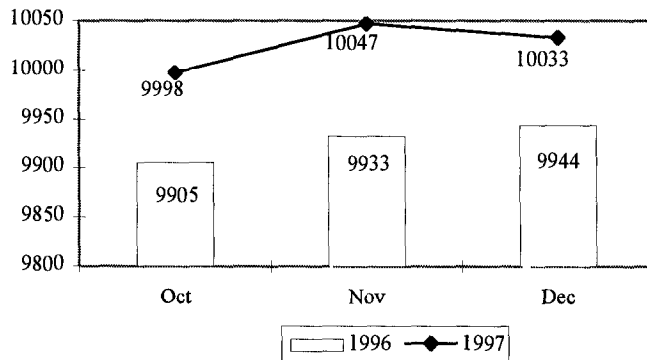
Table 3 presents the county figures for the fourth quarter of 1997. The county population decreased by 811 inmates, or minus 6 percent during this quarter. At the end of the quarter, the county system operated with 12,121 inmates, and the average daily population was 12,592 in facilities with a total design capacity of 8,356. Thus, the county system operated at 151 percent of design capacity

Population in County Correctional Facilities, October 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997					
Facility	Avg Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Barnstable	278	290	266	110	253%
Berkshire	249	255	246	116	215%
Bristol	1,348	1,483	1,267	666	202%
Dukes	20	20	19	19	105%
Essex	1,344	1,327	1,353	635	212%
Franklin	142	148	141	63	225%
Hampden	1,683	1,673	1,603	1,178	143%
Hampden-OUI	140	143	137	125	112%
Hampshire	254	265	245	248	102%
Middlesex	1,402	1,418	1,370	1,035	135%
Norfolk	610	626	568	379	161%
Plymouth	1,178	1,286	1,095	1,140	103%
Suffolk-Nashua St	670	672	621	453	148%
Suffolk-So. Bay	1,801	1,842	1,785	1,146	157%
Worcester	1,267	1,285	1,203	790	160%
Longwood TC	140	140	136	125	112%
Mass. Boot Camp	66	59	66	128	52%
Total	12,592	12,932	12,121	8,356	151%

Table 4 presents the county figures for the previous twelve months. These figures indicate that the county population increased by 795 inmates or 7 percent over this twelve-month period, from 12,110 in October 1996, to 12,905 in September, 1997.

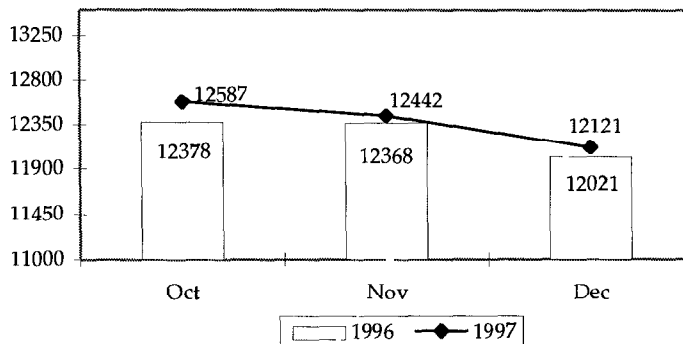
Population in County Correctional Facilities, October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997					
Facility	Avg Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Barnstable	292	282	291	110	265%
Berkshire	255	259	258	116	220%
Bristol	1,287	1,162	1,467	666	193%
Dukes	20	27	21	19	105%
Essex	1,377	1,369	1,325	635	217%
Franklin	130	132	147	63	206%
Hampden	1,588	1,513	1,680	1,178	135%
Hampden-OUI	137	127	152	125	110%
Hampshire	266	262	264	248	107%
Middlesex	1,349	1,332	1,391	1,035	130%
Norfolk	617	584	613	379	163%
Plymouth	1,232	1,143	1,298	1,140	108%
Suffolk-Nashua St	639	611	682	453	141%
Suffolk- So.Bay	1,820	1,825	1,833	1,146	159%
Worcester	1,200	1,251	1,281	790	152%
Longwood TC	146	153	144	125	117%
Mass Boot Camp	62	78	58	128	48%
Total	12,417	12,110	12,905	8,356	149%

Figure 1.
DOC Sentenced Population, Fourth Quarter of 1996 and 1997



The graph above compares the DOC sentenced population in 1996 to that in 1997. In October, 1997 the DOC population increased by 93 inmates (1%) compared with the same month in 1996; for November, the population increased by 114 inmates (1%); and for December, the population increased by 89 inmates or 1 percent.

Figure 2.
HOC Population, Fourth Quarter of 1996 and 1997



The graph above compares the HOC population in 1996 to that in 1997. In October, 1997 the HOC population increased by 209 inmates (2%) compared with the same month of 1996; for November, the population increased by 74 inmates (1%); and for December, the population increased by 100 inmates or 1 percent.

Note. Data from figures 1 and 2 were taken from the end of the month daily count sheet compiled by the Classification Division.

Table 5 provides statistics on court commitments by gender to the DOC in 1996 and 1997. Overall, there has been a decrease of 156 commitments, or minus 5 percent for 1997 in comparison with the number of commitments in 1996, from 3,092 to 2,936. Male commitments for 1997 decreased by 16, or minus 1 percent from 1996. Female commitments during 1997 decreased by 140, or minus 13 percent compared to the number of commitments during the same period in 1996.

Court Commitments by Gender			
	1996	1997	Difference
Males			
First Quarter	528	545	3%
Second Quarter	512	474	-7%
Third Quarter	461	431	-7%
Fourth Quarter	481	516	7%
Sub-total	1,982	1,966	-1%
Females			
First Quarter	260	251	-3%
Second Quarter	291	232	-20%
Third Quarter	290	246	-15%
Fourth Quarter	269	241	-10%
Sub-total	1,110	970	-13%
Total	3,092	2,936	-5%

Figure 3 provides a graphical representation of the number of court commitments by gender to the DOC during the fourth quarter of 1996 and the fourth quarter of 1997.

